

Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-07

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L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
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R 272249Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, NI, MTN

SUBJECT:NIGERIAN TRADE CONSULTATIONS

1. ON JUNE 19 AT THE UNDP GSP SEMINAR IN NAIROBI DORAL COOPER OF STR MET PRIVATELY WITH MR. C.B.A. ENEH, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ECONOMIC DIVISION, FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION OF NIGERIAN MINISTRY OF TRADE. THE EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND WIDE RANGING CONVERSATION FOCUSSED ON THE MTN, VARIOUS NIGERIAN TRADE RESTRICTIONS, GSP AND GENERAL BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

2. SPECIFICALLY, COOPER REVIEWED THE U.S. OFFER VIS-A-VIS NIGERIA IN THE MTN AND ENUMERATED THE U.S. REQUESTS, WHICH INCLUDE AMONG OTHER THINGS, TALLOW, VEGETABLE PRO-
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TEINS, MACHINERY REPLACEMENT PARTS AND AIR CONDITIONERS. ENEH CLEARLY WAS WILLING TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THESE CONCESSIONS AND WILL DISCUSS THEM WITH OFFICIALS IN LAGOS AND TRANSMIT INSTRUCTIONS TO NIGERIAN DELEGATION IN GENEVA.

3. ALSO DISCUSSED WERE THE RECENTLY IMPOSED NIGERIAN TRADE RESTRICTIONS INCLUDING IMPORT BANS ON VARIOUS PRODUCTS.

COOPER NOTED NIGERIA'S GATT RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS REGARD WHICH INCLUDE BOTH NOTIFICATION AND JUSTIFICATION.

ENEH APPEARED TO AGREE AND AGAIN ASSURED US THAT SUBJECT WOULD BE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED IN LAGOS UPON HIS RETURN.

4. FOR HIS PART, ENEH PRESSED COOPER TO REMIND BOTH USG AND AMERICAN BUSINESS THAT FMG DOES NOT AND WILL NOT NATIONALIZE PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN NIGERIA.

5. WE ARE TRYING TO GET LDCS ON BOARD MTN DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. DUE TO THIS TIME CONSTRAINT, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY LAGOS FOLLOWING UP ON COOPER'S MTN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF TRADE. THIS CONVERSATION COULD ALSO PROVIDE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND FMG OF NIGERIA'S ROLE IN THE GATT AS AN IMPORTANT LDC PARTICIPANT AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES THIS ENTAILS. VANCE

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